

FU^BZION presents...



*2024 Mr. & Miss BG Pride
Pageant Official Handbook for
Contestants and Judges*

FU[®]ZION *presents...*



*2024 B&G Pride Pageant
Official Contestants' Handbook*

2024 Mr. & Miss BG Pride Pageant Contestants' Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Mr. & Miss BG Pride Pageant hosted by BG FuZion! Thank you so much for registering to compete in the Mr. or Miss BG Pride Pageant! We are so excited that you have chosen to compete. Winning the crown is not only a great honor, but also a great responsibility, for you will be the King and/or Queen who represents our community for the next year.

This year is even more important to ensure the continuity of our Pageant and our mission to increase our visibility, importance and positive impact of drag in our region.

HANDBOOK

To assist you in preparing the most competitive pageant program possible, this handbook contains guidelines, policies and procedures, and all the details (logistics, eligibility, fees, theme, itinerary, music, categories, judging, prizes, and other rules & expectations). Please carefully study this information. A clear understanding of and adherence to the expectations and judging criteria will choose our winners.

MR. & MISS BG PRIDE QUALIFICATIONS

MR. & MISS BG PRIDE DESCRIPTION

Mr. and Miss BG Pride are community service roles, and the King and Queen must serve as representatives for the entire community. They must be able to meet the public, speak extemporaneously and represent our region with pride and charm. Although they must connect to the LGBTQIA+ public, they must also exhibit the proper professionalism, respect and dignity needed to be effective in the general public. Most importantly, they must be committed to finding ways to address the pageant theme (Unity in the Community) and their platforms.

CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

MISS BG PRIDE

All contestants for Miss BG Pride must personify a female. This includes drag queens, female impersonators, female entertainers, cis females, and all other female-presenting performers.

MR. BG PRIDE

All contestants for Mr. BG Pride must personify a male. This includes drag kings, male impersonators, male entertainers, cis males, and all other male-presenting performers.

ALL BG PRIDE PAGEANTS

All contestants must be ages 18+ to compete.

The BG Pride Pageant system does not discriminate against cis-gender contestants or contestants who use hormones, silicone and/or any body-modifications so long as those contestants personify their desired title as their onstage personality.

Each division must have at least three contestants to compete or that division will be cancelled and the crown will be represented by the Inaugural Title Holder of that division until the end of the annual reign. If after a second year, the same division fails to achieve at least three contestants, then the division will be eliminated.

**Although the BG Pride Pageant System has no geographic limitations on contestant eligibility, Mr. and Miss BG Pride are community service roles meant to elevate the importance and positive impact of drag in Bowling Green and the surrounding South Central Kentucky region. Contestants who live outside the region may find additional challenges to a successful reign and should prepare to make accommodations as needed.*

LOGISTICS

ENTRY FEE, DEADLINES, PAPERWORK

\$60.00 Early Bird Registration Fee
through August 16

\$85.00 Pageant Entry Fee
August 17-31

Final Deadline to Enter – August 31

All contestants must submit a **Professional Headshot** with black background, **Completed Registration Form**, and **Full Payment** with their registration. No late fees or submissions will be accepted.

Contestants who fail to submit a headshot, completed Registration Form and full Entry Fee by the deadline will be subjected to Ranking and/or Administrative Point Deductions for the Personal Interview Category.

DATE and TIME

All pageant activities will occur at
Xclaim! Center
502 College St.
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Saturday, September 7 at 12:00pm-11:00pm*

See Pageant Itinerary for details.

** in case of high amount of participation,
the pageant may be divided into two days.*

PRIZE PACKAGE – Worth over \$600 – Title, crown, sash* and the following prizes:

\$200 Cash (\$100 night of pageant, \$100 next year at step down)

Two (2) bookings at BG FuZion at \$100 each

Up to two (2) Community Events based on your platform at \$75 each

**Title, crown and sash remains property of the BG Pride Pageant System until successful completion of reign.*

PAGEANT ITINERARY

MR. & MISS BG PRIDE PAGEANT – Saturday, September 7

12:00p Check-In, Registration, Orientation

12:45p Judges Interview Contestants

Contestants dismissed after last completed interview.

The building will be open and accessible to contestants to access during the break.

5:30p Contestant Call Time for Public Pageant

6:30p Doors Open to Public

7:00p Public Pageant Begins

MUSIC

All music must be submitted to the Pageant Director no later than September 1.

Tracks must be high-quality **mp3** or **wav** file formats only. Contestants should email files to info@bgfuzion.com, but may submit a flash drive if needed. Flash drives must be clearly labelled with the contestant's name and should only contain tracks for this pageant.

ALL Tracks used (via email, flash drive or CD) **MUST be labelled as follows:**

1. *PERFORMER NAME PRESENTATION*
2. *PERFORMER NAME TALENT*
3. *PERFORMER NAME CROWNING NUMBER – used if you are crowned*

Contestants who do not submit music by the deadline or fail to submit it properly will receive Administrative Point Deductions equivalent to one ranking deduction for both Presentation and Talent Categories.

CONTESTANT'S PAGEANT PLATFORM

A pageant platform is a cause that a contestant chooses to volunteer their time to bring awareness to, raise money for, implement a helpful program for, or increase community involvement in the cause. Connecting more parts of your pageant packet to your platform will help underscore its importance and value.

Your pageant platform should be appropriate and should somehow connect to the pageant theme: **Unity in the Community**. Although many platforms are worthy causes, the best platform choices will reflect LGBTQIA+ issues and inspire community action and support. Finally, since Mr. and Miss BG Pride are required to create and produce a community initiative or event to support their platforms, the best choices will be accessible and include achievable goals for community action or participation.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

No fire, no liquids, no glitter and no confetti are allowed. Use of any of these materials will result in Administrative Points Deduction equivalent to one ranking deduction and/or disqualification from the Pageant.

The Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageant consists of five (5) competition categories, each worth different values to determining the winner. The following pages detail each category, its value, rules and procedures, and criteria for judging.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW – 10% of Final Score (100 Points)

- Judges will conduct SHORT interviews with contestants immediately following registration before the public pageant. This is the only private category; all others will be for the public during the pageant.
- Contestants shall NOT interview in drag! Interview dress will be out of drag in business casual style – as for an office or business job interview. Dress as you would to represent our community at a business meeting, planning session or other non-performance event.
- Questions will include basic personal history, platform, community involvement and others basic to an employment interview. No other direction or information will be given to contestants before the pageant. The judges wish to see the "real" you without memorized preparation.
- Criteria for Judging:
 - 1-20 points: Confidence – eye contact, comfort, smile
 - 1-20 points: Speaking Ability – communication, clarity, content, message
 - 1-20 points: Professional Appearance – neat, clean, appropriate
 - 1-20 points: Platform Appropriateness – relates to theme, represents LGBTQIA+ issues
 - 1-20 points: Overall Effectiveness as Representative of 2024 Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride and the LGBTQIA+ Community.
- Contestants who fail to submit a headshot, completed Registration Form and full Entry Fee by the deadline will be subjected to Administrative Point Deductions equivalent to one ranking deduction for the Personal Interview Category.

CREATIVE PRESENTATION – 30% of Final Score (300 Points)

- For the first category of the public pageant, each contestant will provide their own music to lip synch and model a costume inspired by the **pageant theme: "Unity in the Community: WE can do MORE in '24!"** This may be reflected by combining different styles, colors, fabrics, or more creatively!
- This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. The mid-stage curtain will be closed, and contestants will cue backstage curtain operators when to open the curtains for their Creative Presentation. Curtain operators will automatically close the mid-stage curtain after each contestant has finished their introduction in the onstage microphone before the next competitor.

- Time Limit: 4 minutes maximum. This includes song length and speaking time after. No additional time is given for set-up or tear-down of props and/or backgrounds.
- Props and/or backgrounds may be used and will be judged if used.
- Contestants will be introduced ONLY by their contestant number or order for this category.
- AFTER Creative Presentation performance, each contestant will introduce themselves using an onstage microphone and MUST say the following:
 1. Contestant Number,
 2. Contestant Name and
 3. Contestant's Explanation of how their costume was inspired by and/or represents the pageant theme.
- **Note: The four-minute Time Limit for this category includes both music AND speaking on mic.*
- Contestants are not allowed to have onstage assistants during this category. One backstage assistant may step out from the side curtain to observe Creative Presentation and meet their contestant as they exit.
- Criteria for judging:
 - 6-65 points: Creativity – Creativity, Music Selection and Appropriateness
 - 6-65 points: Presentation – Modeling Ability, Choreography, Movement
 - 6-65 points: Public Speaking – Speaking Ability, Audience Impact/Interaction
 - 6-65 points: Appearance – Costume Fit, Make-Up, Hair
 - 6-40 points: Overall Effectiveness of Introduction, Costume and Presentation
- Contestants who go over the time limit or whose assistant(s) remain(s) backstage after “Places,” will receive Administrative Point Deductions equivalent to one ranking deduction.

TALENT PERFORMANCE – 40% of Final Score (400 Points)

- For the second category of the public pageant, each contestant will provide their own music and present any talent of their choice as long as it will not cause injury or harm to themselves, the audience, any person, or to the venue. Lip-synch, dance, live vocals, live instrumentals, character performance, and more are all acceptable talents. For pianists, a keyboard may be used, but a real piano cannot be placed on the Xclaim! Center stage. Contestants may use up to three cordless microphones if indicated on the Registration Form.
- This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. One AC outlet is available Up Stage Center. The mid-stage curtain will be closed before each contestant is introduced, and contestants will cue backstage curtain operators when to open the curtains for their Talent Performance. Curtain operators will automatically close the mid-stage curtain after each contestant has completed their Talent Performance before the next competitor.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes performance, plus 2 minutes for set-up and 2 minutes for strike, for a total of 8 minutes. If minimal or no set-up/strike are required, contestants may use 1 minute from both set-up and strike to increase their Talent Performance length. However, NO Talent Performance can be longer than 6 minutes, even with no set-up/strike.
- Any props or backgrounds used will be judged for appearance, appropriateness and effectiveness and require prior approval from the Pageant Director and a clear plan for load-in, load-out, and off-stage storage. The stage has a 7' clearance at the upstage entrances, top & mid-deck split and at proscenium.
- Before starting their Talent Performance, contestants will be introduced by their number, name and tag line.
- Contestants are allowed one or two assistants to move props, help with costumes or serve as back-up dancers. Assistants will be allowed backstage after their competitor completes their Creative Presentation and the mid-stage curtains close. Any assistants used onstage will be judged for effectiveness, costumes, and appropriateness. Their costumes should coordinate and support you, not fight for attention. Only one assistant may stay backstage after strike following your Talent Performance for the next category.
- The highest score in Talent Performance will break any ties. A tie for Talent Performance will be broken by the highest score in Creative Presentation.

- Criteria for judging:
 - 11-100 points: Talent – Talent Ability and Selection, Music Selection or Ambient Appropriateness
 - 11-100 points: Presentation – Choreography/Movement/Presentation, Use of Props/Backgrounds/ Assistants or Choice NOT to use them
 - 11-100 points: Appearance – Costume Selection, Fit & Effectiveness, Make-Up, Hair
 - 11-100 points: Impact – Audience Impact/Interaction, Overall Effectiveness of Talent Performance.
- Contestants who go over the time limit or whose assistant(s) violate time allowed backstage will receive Administrative Point Deductions equivalent to one ranking deduction.

FORMAL WEAR – 10% of Final Score (100 Points)

- For the third category of the public pageant, one at a time, in order, each contestant will model full-length formal wear of any color, style or fashion. Mr. Contestants must wear a suit, and Miss Contestants must wear an evening gown.
- This is a half-stage category with black mid-stage curtains as background, so black is discouraged as the main color for Formal Wear.
- Music is provided and no time limit is given. Contestants are encouraged to walk with the beat of the music.
- Backgrounds are not allowed. Hand props may be used only if they accessorize/complete the Formal Wear.
- Before entering for Formal Wear, contestants will be introduced by their number, name and tag line.
- Backstage curtain openers will open curtains to reveal the next competitor and close the curtain immediately after they step forward to model. As contestants model their formal wear, the MC will describe each contestant’s formal wear and accessories and share their platform and a brief bio. Stage points for stops, poses and turns will be marked on the floor. After modeling, contestants will exit through the center split of the mid-stage curtain.
- One backstage assistant may be used to help change costume. Contestants will be allowed to complete costume changes onstage behind the mid-stage curtain for this category for extra space and to avoid the mid-stage & off-stage steps. Assistants will not appear onstage and never be seen by judges. They must be responsible for clearing ALL any costumes or items belonging to their contestant from the stage.
- Criteria for judging:
 - 2-25 points: Outfit – Formal Wear Selection and Fit
 - 2-25 points: Presentation – Modeling Ability, Poise, Smile
 - 2-25 points: Appearance – Make-Up, Hair, and Accessories
 - 2-25 points: Impact – Audience Impact/Interaction, Coordination of Appearance, Overall Effectiveness of Formal Wear Modeling and Presentation.
- Contestants whose assistant(s) violate time allowed backstage or fail to clear the stage of personal items will receive Administrative Point Deductions equivalent to one ranking deduction.

ONSTAGE QUESTION – 10% of Final Score (100 Points)

- For the final category of the public pageant, using an onstage microphone, each contestant will answer the onstage question listed below and make a final closing statement to the audience. Contestants must remain in their Formal Wear for this category.
- This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. All competitors will line up and be seated, in order, across the stage behind the mid-stage curtain. Backstage curtain openers will open the mid-stage curtain to reveal all contestants together.
- There is no time limit for Onstage Question or your Closing Statement. However, rushed answers may seem cavalier or uncommitted, and lengthy responses may seem unfocused or rambling. Contestants are given the question in advance in order to prepare and deliver a thoughtful and well-spoken answer.

- Onstage Question: “Why do you feel you are the best choice to be the 2024 Mr. or Miss BG Pride?”
Each contestant will answer only this question. The best answers will reflect the pageant theme, connect to your platform, and inspire judges and audience alike to choose you as our community representative.
- After answering the Onstage Question, the Moderator will ask each Contestant for their Closing Statement. In the onstage mic, each contestant must say the following:
 1. Contestant Number
 2. Contestant Name (tag line may be used before or after name if desired)
 3. Contestant's Closing Statement: a short sentence thanking everyone and/or urging them to choose you.
- After answering Onstage Question and delivering Closing Statement, each contestant will return to their seat onstage. After all contestants have answered Onstage Question and Closing Statement, all contestants will stand for a final presentation, and crew will close the mid-stage curtain completing the competition.
- Criteria for judging:
 - 2-35 points: Public Speaking – Confidence, Speaking Ability
 - 2-35 points: Content – Sincerity, Appropriateness, Reflection of Pageant Theme
 - 2-30 points: Impact – Audience Interaction, Overall Effectiveness of Answer to Onstage Question and Closing Statement

MINIMUM SCORING REQUIREMENTS

In order to ensure Pageant integrity and Title Holder quality, Mr. and Miss BG Pride must achieve an overall point total equivalent to at least 75% of the total possible points. In the event a pageant winner does not earn the minimum scoring requirements, the crown will revert to the division’s Inaugural Title Holder to reign until the next year’s pageant.

PAGEANT AWARDS AND CROWNING CEREMONY

After completion of Onstage Question Category, contestants are excused to backstage where they remain until results are tabulated and contestants are called to the stage for Crowning Ceremony. Contestants may remain in Formal Wear for Crowning but may change if they desire –pageant guarantees at least 10 minutes from end of Onstage Question until beginning of Crowning Ceremony. Final dress for Crowning Ceremony must be formal.

Contestants will stand across the stage according to their order as awards are announced. The winner of each award will step forward to receive it and then return to their place in line. When the winner of the pageant is announced, contestants will divide evenly and stand at each side onstage, leaving the center open for the King or Queen to be crowned. All contestants and performers will remain available for photos during this time.

After the winner is announced and formally introduced, all other contestants exit the stage for the winner to perform the crowning number. Contestants are dismissed after the pageant officially ends, except the First Alternate(s) and Title Holder(s) of Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride who must meet with the Pageant Director to sign contracts and forms to certify their titles. Titles will not be officially certified until all forms are signed.

ROLE OF FIRST ALTERNATES TO MR. AND MISS BG PRIDE

EXPECTATIONS

The First Alternates to Mr. and Miss BG Pride are important competitors and valued contributors to the success of our Pageant System. To retain their positions and remain in good standing, First Alternates must sign an Agreement with the Pageant Producer/Director detailing their support for the reigning King and Queen and deference to them in representation of the crown, title, and Pageant System. With the opportunity to shadow and support the reigning King and Queen, First Alternates are uniquely positioned for future pageants.

ROYAL PROTOCOL FOR CROWNING ALTERNATES

In the unlikely event of abdication or revocation of a Title Holder, the roles of Mr. and Miss BG Pride shall continue strictly adhering to the following Royal Protocol.

- If alternate crowning must occur during the first six months of the relevant reign, the First Alternate to that title will be crowned in a public ceremony and will hold the crown and title until the next Pageant.
- If the relevant First Alternate is not in good standing with the Pageant System or if the alternate crowning occurs past the six month point of the relevant reign, the Inaugural King or Queen will complete the current reign and hold the relevant crown and title until the next pageant.

MR. AND MISS BG PRIDE EXPECTATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

EXPECTATIONS

The 2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride should be quality performers who are intelligent and well-spoken, and who, when in costume, possess talent, dignity, poise, charm, manners, attractiveness, professionalism, respect and a sparkling personality.

RESPONSIBILITIES

As a community representative, the 2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride must be able to meet the public, speak extemporaneously, promote their platform, and represent our region with dignity, charm and pride at various venues, events and other opportunities in the community!

DUTIES

The 2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride must be available for the next BG Pride Festival (usually end of October) and continue to represent our community for the next year at the BG Fairness Meetings, on other committees or through advocacy & activism. Under the direction and support of the BG Pride Pageant Producer/Director, each title holder must help produce the Annual BG PRIDE Prom (April or May) AND create and produce at least one community initiative or event focusing on their platform. Each title holder must promote their crown and title and generate quality contestants to whom they will pass the crown the next year. The winners must attend and perform at the 2025 Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride Pageant to crown the next winner and perform their step-down. Finally, the King and Queen must serve as mentors and support the next year's Title Holder(s) after step-down during the one-month concurrent reigns.

AGREEMENTS

The 2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride shall sign a Title Holder Agreement with the Pageant Director to certify their titles. The agreement shall clearly define all expectations and limitations including but not limited to the following items: clearly-defined payments and compensation; expenses are incurred at cost of the title holder; the title and crown are symbols that represent ideals greater than any individual; the crown belongs to the title holder only after step-down and successful completion of their reign; proper care and crown storage; representation of the pageant and title; personal challenge for growth; community service and volunteerism; communications, marketing, promotion, photography/videography and social media responsibilities and behavior expectations; comportment, behavior and personal limitations when wearing/representing the crown; quality expectations; bookings and performance expectations, exclusivity agreements; indemnification of Pageant and Pageant Producer/Director; subjection to Pageant Director decisions; merchandising agreements; and clear understanding of abdication and/or revocation of the crown and title. Contestants will be given the complete agreement for inspection after the registration deadline but before the day of the Pageant.

TRANSITION OF CROWN AND TITLE

To ensure a smooth transition of the crown and title, immediate Formers will retain their Titles concurrently for one month after crowning a new Mr. and Miss BG Pride. During this time, immediate Formers will serve as consultants and provide the new title holders with orientation and resource sharing. This mentorship from Formers will create a support network for current title holders in the future and guarantee the Pageant's future success.

JUDGES, BALLOTS, DEDUCTIONS

JUDGES

Pageant Judges are community volunteers who have been vetted for proper qualifications and deserve appreciation and respect for their hard work. All judges have committed to a common core of ethics for The BG Pride Pageant System including the following criteria: fairness and impartiality with no favoritism, respect, to pay attention, to judge only the criteria given, not to engage in cross talk, and to judge to the best of their ability as representatives of the Bowling Green community. Individuals with extremely close relationships with contestants will not be allowed to judge. See the Judges' Handbook for details about Judges' Eligibility, Instructions and Ethics.

BALLOTS: SCORING POINTS

Transparency and fairness in scoring are paramount priorities for the BG Pride Pageant System. Ballots for each category are divided into pre-grouped sub-categories of criteria to ensure judges adequately weigh all factors for consideration. After completing and signing their ballots, judges shall turn them over only to certified pageant staff as deemed appropriate by the auditors. Ballots are tabulated by professionally-qualified auditors who have no connection to any contestant or pageant staff member.

Five judges shall assign point values within a predetermined range for several criteria in each competition category. The contestant who receives the highest total point value in each category wins the award for that category. The contestant who receives the highest overall total point value will be crowned Mr. or Miss BG Pride

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTESTANT RANKING/SCORING DEDUCTIONS OR DISQUALIFICATIONS

The Pageant Director is responsible for ensuring all contestants follow the pageant rules and expectations including timekeeping. Judges are not responsible for scoring deductions. Should deductions be appropriate, the Pageant Director must report those infractions directly to the Auditors. Any deductions given will be recorded on the Master Tally Sheet and a summary description provided for publication and dissemination.

The following behaviors may cause the Pageant Director to report rank deductions to the auditors:

- Failure to submit music on time or improper or mislabeled tracks will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction for both Presentation and Talent categories.
- Failure to arrive on time for Check-In at Registration or for the evening pageant will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction to the final score.
- Over time limits for Creative Presentation and/or Talent will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction for the applicable category.
- Discourteous or unprofessional behavior may result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction to the final total or disqualification from competition.

- Music that contains explicit lyrics will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction for that category.
- Music that contains racial or ethnic slurs will result in disqualification from competition.
- Skin is allowed, but exposing too much is not; nudity will result in disqualification from competition.
- Excessive alcohol consumption by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.
- Using or distributing illegal substances by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.
- Stealing or tampering with another person's property will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.

OTHER RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following additional rules shall be in place for the 2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageant:

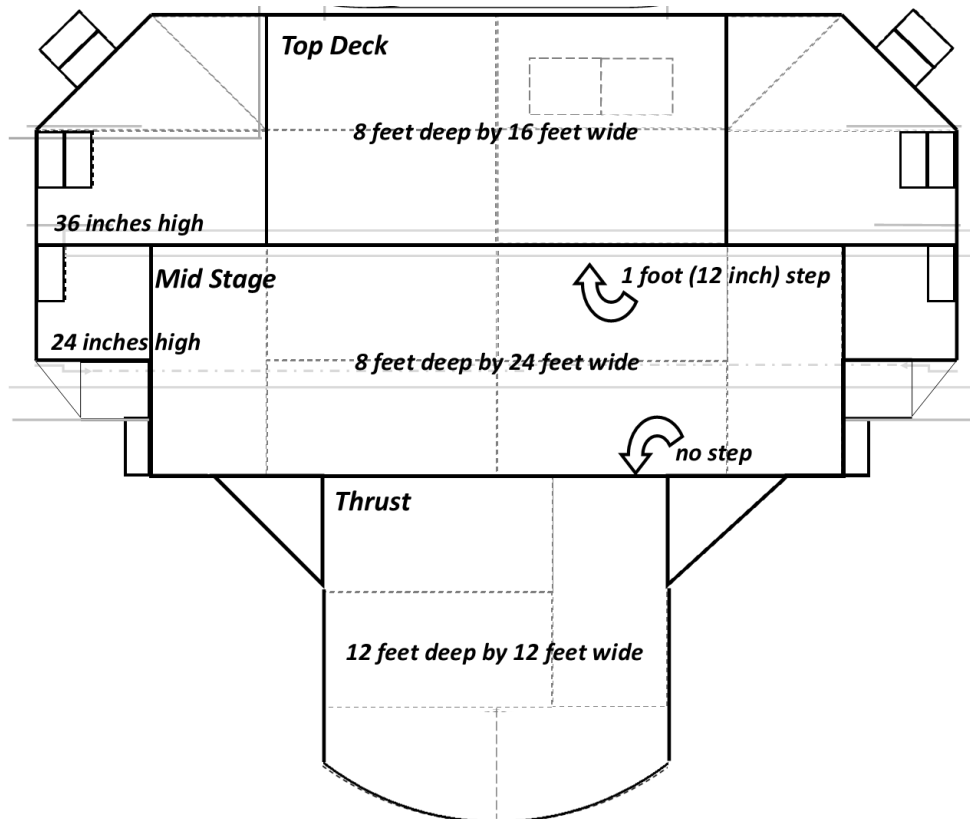
- All contestants must be at least 18 years of age.
- All contestants must follow all rules, guidelines and directions included in this Pageant Packet.
- Only contestants are granted free entry to the pageant. All assistants must pay the admission fee.
- Contestants will be judged ONLY by the criteria described in each category.
- No contestant will have to perform the next category without a minimum of twelve (12) minutes from the time their last performance occurred.
- Contestant order number will be randomly generated.
- Contestants serve as representatives of The BG Pride Pageant System and are expected to promote and support the pageant with social media, word of mouth, etc. with a positive attitude.
- With the Audience Impact/Interaction being a valuable point factor for the competition, each contestant is highly encouraged to promote at least 8-10 ticket sales among their personal supporters.
- Ballots will remain confidential and be handled only by auditing staff.
- Final score sheets, personal contestant Judges' Comments Sheets, and complete audit of personal points will be transmitted to contestants within 10 days following the pageant.
- Participation in the 2024 BG Pride Pageant is voluntary. The pageant is not officially connected to any organization; and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, Bowling Green Pride, BG FuZion, Xclaim, Inc., the Pageant Staff and volunteers, and the property owner are not responsible for any and all liability which may be incurred by participation or competition in the pageant.
- All decisions by the 2024 BG Pride Pageant judges and staff are final and binding, with final authority resting with the Pageant Producer/Director.
- The 2024 BG Pride Pageant Director reserves the right to make any decisions concerning any issue not covered in these rules or Pageant Packet. All decisions will be made according to fairness.

VENUE DESCRIPTION AND LAYOUT

A visual stage layout follows. The Xclaim! Center stage has two large stage areas, divided into three sections.

- Upstage, the top deck is 36 inches (three feet) off the ground with an exposed playing area of 8 feet deep by 16 feet wide, with only 7 feet clearance to enter.
- In front of the top deck, the Mid Stage is 24 inches (two feet) off the ground with an exposed playing area of 8 feet deep by 24 feet wide. A travelling curtain closes across the Mid Stage leaving roughly 5 feet behind the curtain and about 2 ½ feet in front. A wooden proscenium header hangs just in front of the curtain line with only 7 foot clearance to walk forward to the front edge of the Mid Stage.

- Connected to the Mid Stage in front and at the same height is a Thrust Stage that juts into the audience with a playing area of 12 feet by 12 feet.
- With symmetrical layout, there are three (3) entrances on each side that contestants may use. The Top Deck has two entrances on each side accessible to contestants. Each of these entrances has three (3) steps to get onto the stage level. The Mid Stage has one entrance on each side with two (2) steps. All steps are 12 inches tall (BE WARNED: standard step height is 6-8 inches).
- Backstage, each contestant will be assigned a station with a small make-up area and limited hanging space for costumes. All contestants must maintain a clear walk path backstage at all times or be subjected to Administrative Point Deductions.



CONCLUSION

Hopefully this 2024 Mr. & Miss BG Pride Pageant Contestants’ Handbook has answered all your questions about competing in this year’s Pageant and will help you prepare your most competitive pageant program possible. For additional insights, please see the Official Judges’ Handbook, which is available for public scrutiny.

Although this handbook was created in hopes of answering all questions, should you still have some, please reach out to the Pageant Director. Be sure to carefully examine the handbook first since most answers are here.

BG FuZion and the BG Pride Pageant System thank you for registering to compete for Mr. or Miss BG Pride, and we wish you all the success in winning the crown! We hope to see you reign as King or Queen of Bowling Green and continue to build a rich history of Community Service with PRIDE!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pageant Director: Christopher H. Cherry

Email: info@bgfuzion.com

Web: www.bgfuzion.com

©2024, BG FuZion

FU^BZION presents...



2024 B & G Pride Pageant
Official Judges' Handbook

2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageant Judges' Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Thank you so much for serving as a judge for the Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride Pageant! Serving on the Panel of Judges for the BG Pride Pageant system is a serious responsibility, for you decide which King and/or Queen represents our community for the next year. **This year is even more important to secure the system's continuity and lasting legacy after three years.** This year's Pageant will ensure the transition of leadership and representation our community deserves.

We are honored you have chosen to serve our community as a Judge, and to assist you in discharging this responsibility in a credible and transparent manner, this handbook contains important guidelines, policies and procedures. Please carefully study this information. Your understanding and adherence to the official system of judging is critical to having a fair pageant and choosing our winners.

CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

MISS BG PRIDE

All contestants for Miss BG Pride must personify a female. This includes drag queens, female impersonators, cis females, female entertainers and all other female-presenting performers.

MR. BG PRIDE

All contestants for Mr. BG Pride must personify a male. This includes drag kings, male impersonators, cis males, male entertainers and all other male-presenting performers.

ALL BG PRIDE PAGEANTS

All contestants must be ages 18+ to compete. The BG Pride Pageant system does not discriminate against cis-gender contestants or contestants who use hormones, silicone and/or any body-modifications so long as those contestants personify their desired title onstage.

JUDGES' ELIGIBILITY

The BG Pride Pageant System seeks qualified judges. Judges should have a deep appreciation for and understanding of drag (the process, techniques and requirements) and at least one of the following qualifications: experience performing in drag, experience competing in pageants, backstage or "behind the scenes" drag support experience, support and patronage of the art of drag. Anyone with a close relationship with a contestant shall NOT be permitted to judge. All judges will avoid even the appearance of impropriety and must commit to a code of ethics, detailed in this handbook, in order to qualify.

MR. & MISS BG PRIDE QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. and Miss BG Pride are community service roles, and the King and Queen must serve as representatives for the entire community. They must be able to meet the public, speak extemporaneously and represent our region with pride and charm. Although they must connect to the LGBTQIA+ public, they must also exhibit the proper professionalism, respect and dignity needed to be effective in the general public. Most importantly, they must be committed to finding ways to address the pageant theme (Unity in the Community) and their platforms.

JUDGING OVERVIEW

As you see, you have a very important responsibility by serving as an official judge of the Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride Pageant. Please read this Judge's Handbook carefully, for it has been compiled to help you understand the criteria for each category and the process you will follow to judge the competitors. If you have any questions, please contact the Pageant Director.

JUDGES' INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remember that the contestants consider this pageant serious business. Judges must understand that contestants are sincere in their efforts and should respond with supportive understanding and dignity.
2. As a judge, you will be observed during the competition. The competitors have not only spent money, but also have invested considerable time and effort to prepare their programs. Judges are expected to stay observant and carefully watch each performer in full. Do not let your eyes stray too long from the stage to take notes during a performance. The competitors deserve the respect of your attention, and your commitment to judge requires you give each performer equal courtesy and consideration.
3. JUDGE'S PAPERWORK.
 - a. Judge's Notes. Take good notes! This pageant is decided by ballots with points. Your notes could help sway your scoring at the end of a category when you score the Official Judge's Ballot. Supplemental pages for notes are available at the Judge's request. All Judge's Notes sheets and supplemental pages must be turned in to the Pageant Director at the end of the pageant.
 - b. Judge's Sample Ballots. During the category, you will have a copy of the ballot to mark your initial thoughts about scoring. This will be a helpful resource in scoring your Official Judge's Ballot. All Sample Ballots must be turned in to the Pageant Director at the end of the pageant.
 - c. Official Judge's Ballots. At the end of each category, Judges will assign points to each contestant for each of the listed criteria in that category, sign the Official Judge's Ballot and submit it to the Auditors.
 - d. Judge's Comment Sheets. Each judge shall submit a Comments Sheet for each contestant to receive after the pageant. Comments should be supportive and encouraging but have clear critique, suggestions for improvement, or reasoning behind low scoring. A copy of this Judge's Comment Sheet shall be given to the appropriate contestant after the pageant.
4. BALLOT PROCEDURES

Judges will cast separate ballots for each category of competition.

 - a. Judges must evaluate and assign point values for each contestant only for the category in which they are competing, and not from other categories or previous performances.
 - b. Judges must evaluate and assign points to each of the individual criteria separately for each category and use no other factors to influence point values assigned.
 - c. Judges must carefully and judiciously assign point values, giving as much consideration to the points given to less impressive competitors as to the most, since the total score from ALL ballots determines the winner. Should the next best contestant get only one point less or more than one for a particular criterion? Be consistent, fair and judicious in marking point differences between contestants, since the Title Holders must earn at least 75% of the total possible points to be crowned in a division.
5. Be aware of the value of each category: Judges' Interview – 10%, Creative Presentation – 30%, Talent – 40%, Evening Gown – 10%, Onstage Question – 10%

JUDGES' ETHICS

1. Judges shall remain completely impartial and commit to judging without bias. A close, personal connection with any competitor shall disqualify a judge. If you cannot judge a contestant impartially, please do not accept the position of judge for this pageant.
2. Judges shall show no favoritism nor disapproval. Do not react as spectators but remain "poker faced." Do not applaud or cheer for contestants: it is difficult to show appreciation to each in a truly equal manner.
3. Judges should not attend rehearsals at any time and should not talk with contestants before or during the pageant (except for Interview).
4. Judges shall not score the Official Judge's Ballot for any category until the last contestant has completed their performance in that category.
5. No cross-talk between judges about the pageant. Ballots only determine the winner by the numbers not consensus or group discussion.

6. All comments to contestants on the Comments Sheet should be honest but constructive. The contestants have each put a lot of effort into preparing their programs. They would appreciate knowing why they were or were not scored highest in a category. They would also like to know what they did that was most effective or impressive. Be honest with critique but be helpful with that criticism.
7. Judges shall not openly compare the winner or any contestants of this pageant to others.
8. If you disagree with a decision, do not do so until after you have left the Pageant. At that time, you may discuss it with the other judges. If you feel that the pageant results were not consistent with the rankings, discuss it with the Pageant Director. You may see ballots, Auditor's Worksheets, or the Auditor's Master Tally Sheet. Final adjudication of any problems will be resolved by the board of directors of Xclaim, Inc.
9. The Pageant Director will monitor ALL ballots under the supervision of the Auditors. Any judge or audience member who is found to be violating the above instructions, the code of ethics or the included Policies and Procedures shall be disqualified from judging and their ballots removed from the final tally.

2024 BG PRIDE PAGEANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

JUDGES' PAPERWORK

JUDGES' NOTES

Judges will be provided pages for each contestant as they appear individually in each phase of the competition. They will be most helpful in determining scoring at the end of each category. It is wiser to rely upon notes made at the time of performance, than on memory at the conclusion of the category. These notes are for your use, not for public distribution; however, you will have to turn them in to the Pageant Director at the end of the night. These notes may be seen by the Pageant Director and/or the board of directors of Xclaim, Inc.

JUDGES' COMMENT SHEETS

Judges will also be provided a Comment Sheet for each contestant. On this sheet, you write both compliments and constructive criticisms. Do not leave these Comment Sheets blank. They should contain information for the contestant to understand why you ranked them as indicated.

JUDGES' BALLOTS

The most important consideration in each phase of competition is that you cast your ballot for the most outstanding contestant in that single category. Concentrate on each of the criteria being described in that category and mark their scores accordingly, regardless of whether you feel your first place vote is going to the contestant that you would like to see capture the title or not. By following this procedure conscientiously, you will find that total points result in the best contestant being the winner.

For each category, Judge's Ballots will be divided into sub-categories for scoring, each with their own range of values. The contestant whom you feel has met the criteria the best gets your highest points for that criterion. Other contestants must be scored lower for that criterion based on how closely they came to the high scorer. The contest to whom you give the highest points for one criterion does not have to receive the highest points for any other criteria in a category, but they may if they are also the most impressive for other criteria as well.

As soon as you have scored your Official Judge's Ballot and signed your name, you should record the points awarded to each contestant in each criterion on their Judge's Comment Sheet. Then submit your Ballot to the Auditors. It is very important to record the scores on the Judge's Comment Sheet' since this form shows contestants the points they received are accurate. If you change your vote or make an erasure, initial the same before your ballot is collected.

SAMPLES OF JUDGES' PAPERWORK



MISS BG PRIDE Official Judge's Ballot
Category: PERSONAL INTERVIEW
Judge: Joe Judger

Assign a point value to each contestant for each of the scoring criteria. Point value must fall within the indicated point range for that criterion. The top scoring contestant for each criterion must receive more points than the other contestants in that one criterion. Subsequent contestants must be scored lower than the top contestant. No two contestants may be given the same score for the same criterion. Judges are encouraged to score high.

Point Range	PERSONAL INTERVIEW Scoring Criteria	Contestant 1 Annabella Alpha	Contestant 2 Betty Beta	Contestant 3 Girly Gamma	Contestant 4 Dolly Delta	Contestant 5 Erin Epsilon	Contestant 6 Zelda Zeta	Contestant 7 Emma Eta	Contestant 8 Theda Theta
1-20	Confidence - Eye contact, comfort, smile								
1-20	Speaking Ability - communicative, clarity, content, message								
1-20	Professional Appearance - neat, clean, appropriate								
1-20	Platform Appropriateness - relates to theme, represents LGBTQ+ issues								
1-20	Overall Effectiveness as Representative of 2022 BG Pride & LGBTQ+ Community								
5-25	Administrative Point Deductions								
5-100	TOTAL POINTS								

Judge's Signature: _____

FUZION presents MISS BG PRIDE 2022	MISS BG PRIDE Judge: Jo Judger	Judge's Comment Sheet Contestant #1 Annabella Alpha
Personal Interview:		Four Points: Confidence _____ Speaking Ability _____ Professional Appearance _____ Platform Appropriateness _____ Overall Effectiveness _____
Creative Presentation:		Four Points: Creativity _____ Presentation _____ Public Speaking _____ Appearance _____ Overall Effectiveness _____
Talent Performance:		Four Points: Talent _____ Presentation _____ Appearance _____ Impact _____
Formal Wear:		Four Points: Outfit _____ Presentation _____ Appearance _____ Impact _____
Onstage Question:		Four Points: Public Speaking _____ Content _____ Impact _____
Judge's Signature: _____		



JUDGE'S NOTES p1
CATEGORY: PERSONAL INTERVIEW

CONTESTANT #1	CONTESTANT #2
CONTESTANT #3	CONTESTANT #4

PAGEANT THEME

The theme of the 2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageants is "Unity in the Community: WE can do MORE in '24!"

JUDGING CATEGORIES

PERSONAL INTERVIEW (10% of Final Score or 100 Points)

Contestants will be individually interviewed by the panel of judges. After each brief interview, judges will be given a moment to take notes for that contestant before interviewing the next.

This category is unique in two or three ways: it is the only time judges personally interact with the contestants; and it is the only time judges see the contestants out of drag. It is also the only category where the audience does not get to observe.

This interview should be casual and relaxed; contestants have been asked to dress business-casual. Questions should focus on contestant's platform and community involvement but may also include some personal and/or professional history and other questions basic to an employment interview.

The interview category serves two basic purposes. First, the judges need to understand why each contestant wants to be Mr. or Miss BG Pride. Secondly, the interview gives the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. During the interview, judges have the opportunity to evaluate basic qualities such as intelligence, ability to communicate, attitude, composure, personality, mental alertness, vocabulary, general knowledge, personal appearance, sincerity, and manners.

Criteria for judging: Confidence, Speaking Ability, Professional Appearance, Platform Appropriateness, and Overall Effectiveness as 2024 Mr. or Miss BG Pride and as a representative of the LGBTQ+ Community.

CREATIVE PRESENTATION *(30% of Final Score or 300 Points)*

Each contestant will lip synch and/or model a costume inspired by the pageant theme. The category is timed (4-6 minutes max without props) but judges are not responsible for time-keeping. Contestants are not allowed onstage or backstage assistants during this category. This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. Props may be used, but no set up time is given. Any props used should be judged.

After performance, each contestant will introduce themselves using an onstage microphone. Each contestant MUST say their name, contestant number and an explanation of how their costume was inspired by and/or represents the pageant theme.

Criteria for judging: Speaking Ability, Creativity, Make-Up, Hair, Costume Fit, Modeling Ability, Music Selection, Choreography/Staging, Audience Interaction, and Overall Effectiveness of Introduction, Costume and Presentation.

TALENT PERFORMANCE *(40% of Final Score or 400 Points)*

Each contestant will present any talent of their choice as long as it will not cause injury or harm to themselves, the audience, any person, or to the venue. Lip-synch, dance, live vocals, live instrumentals, character performance, and more are all acceptable talents. One outlet is provided. No fire, no liquids, no glitter and no confetti are allowed. Two minutes for set-up and for strike are allowed, and the performance must be within four minutes. Judges are not responsible for time-keeping. Up to two assistants are allowed to move props, help with costumes or serve as back-up dancers. Any assistants used should be judged for effectiveness, costumes, and appropriateness. The highest talent rank will break any ties.

Criteria for judging: Talent Ability, Talent Selection, Make-Up, Hair, Costume, Fit, Music Selection (if used), Choreography/Staging, Audience Interaction, Overall Effectiveness of Props and/or Assistants (if used), and Overall Effectiveness of Talent Performance

FORMAL WEAR *(10% of Final Score or 100 Points)*

Each contestant will model full-length formal wear of any color, style or fashion. Mr. contestants must wear a suit, and Miss contestants must wear an evening gown. One backstage assistant may be used to help change costume. Music is provided and no time limit is given. Contestants are encouraged to walk with the beat of the music. Stage points for stops, poses and turns will be marked on the floor. The MC will describe each contestant's formal wear and accessories and share their platform and a brief bio.

Criteria for judging: Formal Wear Selection, Formal Wear Fit, Modeling Ability, Poise, Make-Up, Hair, Accessories, Coordination of Appearance, Audience Interaction, and Overall Effectiveness of Formal Wear Modeling and Presentation

ONSTAGE QUESTION *(10% of Final Score or 100 Points)*

For the final category, each contestant will answer the same onstage question: “Why do you feel you are the best choice to be the 2024 Mr. or Miss BG Pride?” Contestants have been given this question in advance and should be prepared to give a thoughtful and well-spoken answer in the onstage microphone. The best answers will reflect the pageant theme and incorporate their platform. After answering the onstage question, the MC will ask each contestant for their closing statement. In the mic, each contestant must say their number, name and their brief closing statement.

Criteria for judging: Confidence, Speaking Ability, Sincerity, Appropriateness, Reflection of Pageant Theme, Audience Interaction, and Overall Effectiveness of Answer to Onstage Question and Closing Statement

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTESTANT RANKING/SCORING DEDUCTIONS OR DISQUALIFICATIONS

The Pageant Director is responsible for ensuring all contestants follow the pageant rules and expectations including timekeeping. Judges are not responsible for scoring deductions – score/rank as you see fit. Should deductions be appropriate, the Pageant Director must report those infractions directly to the Auditors. The following behaviors may cause the Pageant Director to report rank deductions to the auditors:

- Failure to submit music on time or improper or mislabeled tracks will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction for both Presentation and Talent categories.
- Failure to arrive on time for Check-In at Registration or for the evening pageant will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction to the final score.
- Over time limits for Creative Presentation and/or Talent will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction for the applicable category.
- Discourteous or unprofessional behavior may result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction to the final total or disqualification from competition.
- Music that contains explicit lyrics will result in point deductions equivalent to one rank deduction for that category.
- Music that contains racial or ethnic slurs will result in disqualification from competition.
- Skin is allowed, but exposing too much is not; nudity will result in disqualification from competition.
- Excessive alcohol consumption by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.
- Using or distributing illegal substances by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.
- Stealing or tampering with another person’s property will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.

CONCLUSION

Hopefully this Judge’s Handbook has been helpful for you to prepare to judge the Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageant. As you see, your part is very important and our community thanks you for your time and efforts. Finally, remember most of these contestants are hometown members of our community. They deserve to be treated equally and fairly and with respect and appreciation when you cast your ballot and make your comments. Remember that the contestants, sponsors, their friends, and the community will judge the results of this pageant. Let honesty be your guide! Thanks again for your volunteerism and support. Contact your Pageant Director with any questions you may have and good luck!

2024 BG PRIDE PAGEANT REGISTRATION FORM

Registration
Deadline:
AUG. 31

Leave blank:

Check your pageant: Mr. Miss

CONTESTANT CONTACT INFO:

STAGE NAME	ADDRESS	
LEGAL NAME	PHONE	
EMAIL	BIRTHDATE	

LIST ANY PAGEANT
SPONSORS YOU
WISH TO CREDIT

DID YOU EMAIL REQUIRED HEADSHOT ON BLACK BACKGROUND TO INFO@BGFUZION.COM? YES NO

CREATIVE PRESENTATION:

Music Track Time Limit: 4 minutes <i>Initial here to acknowledge</i>	If props are used, please describe:
Background lighting requests or other notes:	

Name of assistant if used (*one (1) is allowed but must pay admission-allowed backstage after talent is complete*):

TALENT PERFORMANCE:

My talent performance has a music track (4 min time limit, 6 w/no set-up.strike) _____ *Mark here if applicable*
My talent performance is live and I need a microphone _____ *Mark here if applicable*
My talent performance is instrumental and needs a microphone _____ *Mark here if applicable*
My talent performance needs no technical audio support _____ *Mark here if applicable*

Background lighting requests or other notes:

Names of assistants used (*up to two (2) are allowed but must pay admission and are allowed backstage after Creative Presentation*):

If props are being used, please describe:

FORMAL WEAR:

Description of Formal Wear:

Designed by:	Make-up by:
Hair by:	Jewelry by:

Name of assistant if used (*one (1) is allowed but must pay admission-allowed backstage after talent is complete*):

2024 BG PRIDE PAGEANT REGISTRATION FORM - p2

Leave this
box blank

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 31

YOUR TAG LINE (if you use one):

CONTESTANT PERSONAL INFO TO SHARE DURING FORMAL WEAR CATEGORY AS YOU MODEL:

ZODIAC SIGN

HOW LONG YOU'VE
BEEN PERFORMING

DESCRIBE YOUR PLATFORM

SHORT BIO ABOUT YOU

CONTESTANT AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:

I am at least 18 years of age and am voluntarily registering to compete in the 2024 BG Pride Pageant. I have read and agree to abide by all rules, policies & guidelines contained in the 2024 BG Pride Pageant Official Contestant's Handbook. I understand the criteria for categories, time limits for performances, judging criteria, and ballot tabulating procedures. I acknowledge the Pageant Itinerary and the expectations for my promptness and responsibility for music. I have paid my registration fee in full by the deadline. I understand that I may have up to two (2) assistants (2 for talent and 1 for presentation & formal wear), but that they must pay admission fees and are limited when they are allowed backstage. I understand that the behavior of any assistants may also reflect on me and affect my scores. I have read and agree to fulfill the Expectations, Responsibilities and Duties of 2024 Mr./Miss BG Pride. I will represent my title with appropriate behavior, participate in BG Pride, and strive to enact my platform. I will attend the 2025 BG Pride Pageant to crown the next winner. I understand that decisions by the judges and staff of Miss BG Pride are final and that the Pageant Director reserves the right to make any decisions concerning issues not covered in the Official 2024 BG Pride Pageant Handbook. I understand that I am expected to behave in a professional manner and treat my fellow contestants with courtesy and support. I understand that I am expected to promote and support the pageant on social media, by word of mouth, etc. with a positive attitude. I know I am expected to generate ticket sales from my supporters to attend the pageant. I understand that the following behaviors or infractions will result in administrative point deductions: bad actions, missing check-in times, late turning in music or music not properly presented, time limit infractions for Creative Presentation and/or Talent Performance, or music contains explicit lyrics. I understand that the following actions will result in disqualification and/or ejection from the premises: music contain racial/ethnic slurs, nudity onstage, excessive alcohol consumption, use or distribution of illegal substances, stealing or tampering with another person's property, sabotaging another contestant, or other inappropriate behavior.

I hold harmless all entities involved in the 2024 Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageant including but not limited to Kentucky Fairness Alliance, BG Pride, BG FuZion, Xclaim, Inc., the property owners, the Pageant Director, and the pageant staff from any and all incidents and/or occurrences that arise or may arise as a result of my participation or competition in the 2024 Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride Pageant.

SIGNATURE:

PRINT NAME:

DATE:

PAYMENT:

CASH

CHECK #

ORDER #

DATE
PAID

payble to Xclaim, Inc.